

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 24, 2001

The Honorable Henry Bonilla
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies
2362 Rayburn
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bonilla:

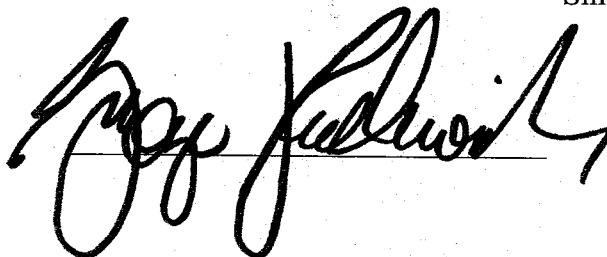
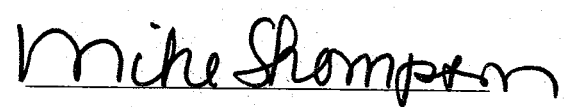
We are writing to request \$10 million for control and containment and \$5 million for research of Pierce's disease. As you know, this disease has recently been particularly devastating to grapevines due to a vector called the Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter. This pest, in just 18 months, infested and destroyed vineyards in Southern California with the virulent Pierce's disease and established strongholds in several other premium growing areas threatening the entire grape and wine industry. Our funding request will be used for scientific research, as well as immediate efforts to prevent the spread of the disease and pest to other areas in California and our nation.

The threat of Pierce's disease and its vector to California agriculture has galvanized a partnership between public and private interests, and we commend these efforts. Such cooperation is needed during this time of fiscal constraint. Efforts by federal, state and county entities, as well as those of farmers, have generated a \$40 million response to survey, contain, and control the Sharpshooter.

We ask for your assistance to move quickly against this serious pest and disease combination, which is already affecting the economic viability of many key crops in California and could lead to significant problems in other states. Therefore, we urge you to include funding in the amount of \$5 million for research and \$10 million for control and containment of Pierce's disease.

We appreciate your attention to this request of great importance to our agricultural economy.

Sincerely,

Jerry Lewis

Ken Albert

Richard Pombro

Joe Bana

Maline Hooler

Lois Capper

George Miller

Wally Henger

Jimmy Lee

Lynn Wolsey

~~Anna~~

Al Dooly

Grace E. Napolitano

Ellen Pauscher

~~Paul Hester~~

Bill Thomas

Nancy Pelosi

~~Tom Lantos~~

Anna Eskoo

David Dreier

Zoe Lofgren

Barbara Lee

Cam B. Loeffler

Mary Bono

Jim Hironaka
Todd R. Hall

Loretta Sanchez

Ed Blum

Henry Waxman

Ben Ray Lujan
